

January 2010



SAF Monthly Update



SAFOUNDATION

Street Ministry Among the Sexually Exploited in Budapest, Hungary - By Ildiko D.

'In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:3)'

I moved to Budapest from a small town with a calling in my heart during the summer of 2001. God called me to serve sexually exploited women on the streets; the people who society have cast out have always had a special place in my heart. Since that time I have worked for 8 years with Table 22 (an outreach ministry to sexually exploited/trafficked women) and we have seen God touch many people on the streets.

We have been successful at obtaining a good 'reputation' on the streets. From the beginning I saw hundreds of girls with trapped lives who needed practical help, but whom we could not help as a result of a lack of resources. In Budapest there are hundreds of women working the streets, in Hungary thousands. I am the citizen of such a country, whose girls are sold. In Amsterdam (Netherlands) 60% of sexually exploited women are Hungarian. As a result, 3 years ago we concretely began to pray for a Christian rehabilitation program, which could provide specialized help for the victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking. A place where they could find security, they could be transformed in Christ, their self-worth could be built up, where they could find employment and could reintegrate into society. The Lord heard their prayers and ours. From Canada to Hungary, He directed a young, determined woman named Dora, who was given this calling from God, so that such a program could become reality in Budapest. God crossed our paths in an amazing manner and we met at church. Through her we became familiar with the SAF model and we prayed that this program would truly begin and bring changes in Hungary, by His grace.

One of our most recent experiences involved Dora and I together. During Christmas we distributed gift bags to the women in different areas of Budapest. We spoke to a couple of girls who were now standing in the exact location where one of the girls had been held captive by human traffickers. She is safe today and is resting in a local short-term shelter (the only shelter in Hungary!).

When this woman was rescued, she was in such bad shape that when Dora transported her to the shelter by car, it did not matter how many times she tried to comfort her and assure her of her safety, she would not get up off the back seat of the car. She stayed curled up in a ball throughout the entire trip. She told Dora that she was sold to this organized crime family and was forced into prostitution. They started her day by giving her drugs in the morning and then she was continually and severely physically abused. Needless to say, she is severely traumatized and still, after several months, has problems being out in public without having panic attacks and breaking out in a sweat.

This woman made us aware of two other girls she knew who were being forced to work on the streets. We were told that one of the girls had tried to escape twice, but her pimps brought her back each time within a matter of days. So, Dora called me and that night we went for a little adventure with one of our drivers.

Only one of the girls was out working. She told us that the other girl had escaped a few days ago and the pimps were looking for her. She said that one of the reasons she had wanted to escape was that they were going to take her to Switzerland to work at the end of January.



The SA Foundation's Board of Trustees recently voted to add Budapest as a future program site in its 5-year strategic business plan.

We seek your prayers and support. If you would like to know more about the Foundation's plans, contact Dominique M. or Carla D. at the coordinates below.

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Street Ministry in Budapest....continued

We offered her the option of the shelter and she said she would come. We mentioned that in this situation it might be wise to ask for police help. She was very scared to involve the police as her pimps threatened to hurt her family. After I assured her that they were a well known contact, she asked us to come back in a couple of days.

Dora called our police contact, but she knew in her heart that they would not do much about the situation at hand because back in October, when we wanted to take the first girl to testify against her pimps at their office, they had sent us to a different police department, saying that the case did not fall within their jurisdiction, even though these pimps were traffickers. Dora shared with the police this information but we received no help!

So, Dora and I decided to embark on a little adventure once again! We took a very old car (barely functioning!) and we went to try to bring the girl to the shelter ourselves. After driving up and down that street a few times (as first the pimp was visiting her, then she was out with a client), Dora put on a hat to attempt to disguise her female identity and we drove on a side street to talk to her, pretending to be a client. At first she did not even recognize us, and looked at us a little suspiciously. Then her face just glowed and her eyes sparkled as she was so happy to see us! However, this only lasted for a brief moment, then her usual traumatized/terrorized facial expression returned. When we asked her if she would get in and come away with us, she stood very still and told us that they were watching us from behind the trees and that we would not even make it until the lights at the end of the street.

We looked over in that direction and indeed saw the car's lights being turned on and off to signal that they were there. She asked us to come back in two weeks and said she would come away then. She deemed this length of time necessary, as due to the other girl's recent escape they were guarding her more than ever. It broke our hearts to leave her there in that condition, but we would have hurt her more in the long run by making a crazy and impossible attempt at a rescue. We had to let her go to God and trust that He is watching over her....

Find out what happened next in February's monthly update!

Global Wonders Update

The new Spring shipment has arrived! Hurry to book your home/office/school party before we're sold out! Call Pat at 604-568-8994 or by email: pat@safoundation.com

Here's a Sneak Peak at some items.....



NEPALI PROJECT UPDATE

The Foundation has moved ahead with Phase II and III developments in Nepal, which is the implementation of second stage semi-independent living for women graduating from the front-line housing program and the development of the Followcare phase during which graduated participants can receive scholarships to return to school!

In next month's update Naomi H. and Shanta A. will share with us what happened in their upcoming trip to the front-line house in Butwal and more about Phase II and III developments in Kathmandu! Stay tuned.....!





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SAN DIEGO PROJECT UPDATE

Things are on the go in San Diego, California!!!

Susan M. and Holly H., the leaders of this project, have been busy interviewing volunteers, hiring interns, locating live-in servants, applying for grants, continuing to educate the community, and undertaking ongoing training with the SA Foundation! The result is the opening of their first front-line home for sexually exploited and trafficked women on March 1st!

Read about their first month's operations in the March Monthly Update!

The SA Foundation's Board of Trustees was able to grant the San Diego project with \$7600.00 to cover their training needs!



Where else is the SA Foundation looking at planting future projects?

- There has been growing interest in Mumbai, India as their needs for a non-governmental long-term recovery program are very great!
- A couple who are Monthly Donors are in Uganda and are undertaking a demographic study with the hope of seeing an SA project planted in this war-torn country!
- A church in Perth, Australia has shown the SA Foundation's power point video and there is great compassion for the victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking! We'll see where things go!
- In London, England preliminary talks have taken place and it is hoped that a leadership team will emerge to plant an SA project within the next two to three years!
- In Vancouver, Canada the SA Foundation has as part of its 5-year strategic plan the implementation of a front-line house specifically set to deal with trafficked women.

Please pray for these potential developments as the need for the long-term recovery program that the SA Foundation offers is great.

THE SA FOUNDATION'S VISION IS THAT NO PERSON BE TRAFFICKED AND REMAIN TRAPPED IN A LIFE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION. WITH YOUR HELP, THESE YOUNG WOMEN CAN RECEIVE A WAY TO ESCAPE THEIR LIVES OF UNIMAGINABLE ABUSE AND DEGRADATION. JOIN US IN OFFERING A SOLUTION - A WAY OUT OF ENSLAVEMENT!

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

There are so many ways to get involved with the SA Foundation! Here are just a few:

1. Take the Communicar Seminar! This education online course will provide you with a deeper understanding of how young girls become enslaved in the sex trade, and will educate you about the realities of exploitation and recovery. [Click here to learn more!](#)
2. Many have joined the Monthly Donor Program! as a way to equip the SA Foundation to consistently provide the care and services needed by participants to exit the sex trade and build a new life for themselves and their children! [Click here to sign up today!](#)
3. Give a tax deductible gift. Your support is greatly appreciated! Every dollar translates into lives being saved! [Click here to give a gift!](#)
4. Donate your airline points! Travel is expensive, and yet a necessary part of our work. Any help you offer in this area is greatly appreciated! Contact us at the number below for more details on how to donate your points.

CONTACT US: (PH) (AB) 403-237-0921 (BC) 604-568-8994 **(E)** info@safoundation.com **(W)** www.safoundation.com